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MIRFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the

YEAR 1944

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MIRFIELD
URBAN
DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
MIRFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances for 1944.

The greater part of the Report was prepared by Doctor Battersby before he took up Military duties. The Report being completed from Ministerial and Departmental Returns.

The Birth Rate 17.278 was slightly higher than for the previous year (14.58), although less than the general figure for England and Wales (17·6). The Death Rate 12.53 showed a decrease on that for 1943 (14.22). The Infantile Mortality Rate 31.08 compared with 24.8 for the previous year and 46 for England and Wales in 1944.

Diphtheria, although notified on 10 occasions was confirmed in only 4 cases, and no deaths were attributed to this disease. Scarlet Fever notifications (24), exhibit a reduction from 1943. 56 cases of Scabies were treated at the Lower Hopton First Aid Post. I am indebted to the staff for their co-operation.

My acknowledgments are due to those who provided me with Returns which materially assisted in furnishing the Report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES B. MC. KINNEY,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

C (1) WATER

The district receives the bulk of its supply from Huddersfield Corporation. The supply is constant and direct to the houses.

In addition to the above there are seven shallow wells, four springs and one private reservoir, supplying 57 houses. On this latter means of supply 51 houses are solely and 6 houses partly dependent. Following adverse reports received during 1942 one shallow well was found to be unsatisfactory and was closed, a piped supply being substituted.

Six samples (2 Chemical, 4 Bacteriological), of water from several springs. etc., in the area, were submitted to the County Laboratory for examination and were reported satisfactory.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Except in isolated cases the district is well provided with sewers. No other extension has been made during the year.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

The river Calder runs through the district and is in a polluted state when it enters the district.

(iii) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES—

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

D HOUSING.

There was no major change to report on the Housing position during the year.

Overcrowding Particulars.

(a)	1	Number of Dwelling Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year	23
	2	Number of Families dwelling therein ...	23
	3	Number of Persons dwelling therein	124
(b)		Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	1	Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	6
	2	Number of Persons concerned in such cases ...	41

E INSPECTION SUPERVISION—FOOD

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

F PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Excluding Tuberculosis, there were 53 notifications in all; distributed as follows:—

	Notified	After Adjustment
Diphtheria	10	4
Scarlet Fever	24	22
Measles	10	12
Whooping Cough	5	5
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1
Erysipelas...	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1

Diphtheria—

Of 10 notifications, only 4 cases were considered true Diphtheria, 2 of these occurring in immunised and 2 in unimmunised subjects. No deaths were reported.

Scarlet Fever.

The disease remains mild in type; peak periods occurred in September and November, although there were admissions to Hospital throughout the year.

IMMUNISATION

The position is shown in the Return made to the Ministry of Health for December 31st, 1944.

	Under 5	5—15
(*a*) Estimated number of Children in Authority's Area at 31st December, 1944...	736	1,610
(*b*) Estimated percentage considered Immunised	63.8	80

These figures include children immunised by arrangement through the County Council's Scheme which offers immunisation through private Doctor or Child Welfare Clinic. This Clinic is held on Fridays, at Ings Grove. The course given is one of two injections spaced at an interval of one month.

Diphtheria is a grave menace to the life and health of a child, and it must clearly be realised that much higher percentage of immunisation in the pre-school child is required if the disease is to be eliminated.

Tuberculosis.

Eight fresh cases were notified 6 Pulmonary (6 Males); and 2 Non-Pulmonary (2 Males). At the end of the year the figures representing the position in Mirfield were;—

		Pulmonary Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female
(a)	No. of cases on Register at commencement of year ...	12	10	4	10
(b)	No. of cases notified first time during the year ...	6	—	2	—
(c)	No. of cases restored to Register	—	—	—	-
(d)	No. of cases removed from Register	2	1	1	—
(e)	No. of cases remaining on Register	16	9	5	10

NEW CASES	PULMONARY Male	PULMONARY Female	NON-PULMONARY Male	NON-PULMONARY Female
Under 1 ...	—	—	—	—
1- 5	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	—	—	1	—
10-15	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	—	—	—	—
20-25	3	—	—	—
25-35 ...	1	—	—	—
35-45	2	—	1	—
45-55 ...	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—
65 and Over	—	—	—	—
	6	—	2	—

Bacteriological Specimens examined during 1944:—

Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli...	8
Blood Films	3
Swabs for C. Diphtheriæ	54
Urines and Fæces for B. Typhosus ...	1
Urines for Tubercle Bacilli and Orgs. ...	3
Waters for Bacteriological examination ...	11
Bio-Chemical examinations	2
Miscellaneous Specimens	5
Swabs for Hæmolytic Streptococci	36
Urines for Friedman Test	10
TOTAL ...	133

ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Fourth Annual Report of the Sanitary Conditions appertaining to your district for the year 1944.

The part relating to the Cleansing Department extends to the end of the financial year, that is 31st March, 1945.

The work of the Department was seriously interfered with during the year, due to the Billeting and supervision of large numbers of evacuees. I would take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to all voluntary workers who assisted in this work and particularly to the many householders who took in and cared for the children and families that sought rest and shelter in Mirfield.

I trust that the next year will see a return to more normal conditions and we may be able to clear our decks for action in the great sea of post-war re-construction.

In conclusion my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and interest in all matters relating to the work of the department, and also to all Officials of the Council for their valuable assistance and co-operation which has been greatly appreciated.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. H. JOHNSON.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Convenience—

Closet Accommodation, December 31st, 1944:—

Number of	Privies	276
,,	Privies Ashpits	164
,,	Dry Ashpits ...	23
,,	Dust Bins ...	3607
,,	Water Closets ...	3851
,,	Waste Water Closets	53
,,	Pail or Tub Closets	33
,,	Privies Discontinued	1

Number of Water Closets provided during the year is as follows:—

By conversion of Privies to Water Closets	1
By provision of Extra Closet Accommodation to existing property where insufficient	Nil
By provision to New Property	Nil
By conversion of Waste Water Closets to W.C.'s	Nil
By conversion of Tub Closets to W.C.'s	Nil
TOTAL ...	1

	Privies	W.C.	Waste W.C.	Ttb Closets	Bins
Eastthorpe Ward ...	41	1021	11	0	945
Hopton Ward ...	65	601	28	21	694
Battyeford Ward ...	90	1170	14	10	951
Northorpe Ward	80	1059	0	2	1017
TOTAL ...	276	3851	53	33	3607

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Details of Inspections Made.

The term "inspection" refers to the primary visit made to the premises. A "re-inspection" is a visit made after a notice has been given for the remedying of a defect, to ascertain the action taken to comply with the notice.

Total number of inspections made ... 1193
Total number of re-inspections made 126

DWELLING-HOUSES	Primary Inspections	Re-inspections
Ordinary	248	19
Municipal Houses	26	
Housing Act, 1936, Overcrowded ...	14	
Re Notifiable Diseases ...	33	
Re Evacuation	122	

	Primary Inspections	Re Inspections
Sanitary Conveniences		
Water Closets	39	
Privies	28	
Cesspools	5	2
Refuse Storage		
Ashplaces	1	
Ashbins	99	5
Drains		
Inspections	29	1
Chemical Test	1	
Sewers		
Sewers	2	1
Factories		
Factories (with mechanical power)	21	
Factories (without mechanical power)	12	
Food Storage, Preparation, Etc.		
Bakehouses	8	
Butchers' Shops	5	1
Cowsheds	101	
Dairies, Milk Shops, Milk Stores	46	
Fish Fryers	6	
Food Stores	1	
Markets	6	
Shops	8	
Licenced Premises	1	
Slaughterhouses	1	
Public Houses	1	2
Miscellaneous		
Accumulations	10	
Animals, Poultry	6	
Canal Boats	4	2
Dangerous Structures ...	1	
Nuisances found...	8	
Piggeries	1	
Rats and Mice	79	
Sanitary Inspections	12	93
Schools	5	
Shops Act	10	
Smoke Observations	16	
Special Visits	144	
Tips	7	
Urinals	20	
Van Dwellings	5	
Yards and Courts	1	

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices Served	37
Informal Notices complied with... ...	26
Statutory Notices Served	7
Statutory Notices complied with ...	5
Notices outstanding at end of 1944	13
Verbal Notices given and complied with for the Remedy of Defects, etc.... ...	13
Letters sent	35
Complaints received	47
Complaints comfirmed	38

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

Houses

Houses made fit	34
Cleansed or Limed	1
Vermin Infested	5
Overcrowding Abated	6
Damp Proof Course Provided	—
Washing Accommodation Improved ...	—
Roofs Repaired	14
Eaves Spouting, Rain Water Fall Pipe Repaired	9
Rain Water Fall Pipe Disconnected ...	1
External Walls Repaired	3
Internal Walls Repaired	20
Floor Repaired...	3
Doors Repaired	—
Fire-Place Repaired	4
Wells Abolished	—
Yards Paved	1
Yards Cleansed	3
Dangerous Structures Removed ...	1
Coal Stores Improved	—

Drains

Opened for Inspection	2
Repaired	3
Reconstructed	1
Cleansed by Owner	4
Ventilated	—
Disconnected	—

Accumulations

Manure	2
Other	6

Animals, Poultry, Etc.

Nuisance Abated	5

Ash-Bins and Ash-Places

Bins Renewed	42
Ash-Places Repaired	1
Closets	
Privies Repaired	1
Sinks	
New Provided	8
Waste Pipe Trapped	8
Waste Pipe Repaired	1
Piggeries	
Swine Removed	—
Water Closets	
Cleansed or Limed	3
Repaired	2
Additional W.C.'s Provided	2

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Regular visits have been made under the Shops Act, 1934, during the year. No contraventions of the Act have been found.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Four observations were made during the year. Excessive Black Smoke was emitted in 2 cases, and the factories concerned were served warning Notices.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council Houses found to be Infested ...	Nil
Number Disinfested	Nil
Other Houses found to be Infested	5
Number Disinfested	5

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

All Premises and Occupations within the District which can be controlled by Bye-Laws are already so controlled. There are no Lodging-Houses or Underground Sleeping Rooms, and only occasionally do we have Van Dwelling in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Producer Retailers in the District	21
Producers from Outside, Retailing in the District	8
Dairymen iu the District	2
Dairymen from Outside District... ...	2
Retail Purveyors in the District	35
Cowkeepers in the District	27
Milk Purveyors added to the Register during year ...	1
Milk Purveyors who have discontinued during year	Nil
Cowkeepers added to Register during year ...	3

The Cowsheds and Dairies have been regularly inspected throughout the year, and in addition the cows have been subject to an inspection by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. With the exception of minor defects the several Cowsheds and Dairies have been carried on in a satisfactory manner.

Two farms were improved and issued licences to produce Accredited Milk. Three farmers were licensed to produce milk for the first time and these premises are of modern design and construction.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

During the year 11 samples of Ordinary Milk and 5 samples of Designated Milk together with 3 samples of School Milks, were submitted to the County Health Department for Bacteriological Examination. The results are as follows :—

Total	Grade	Inside District Satisfactory	Inside District Unsatisfactory	Outside District Satisfactory	Outside District Unsatisfactory
11	Ordinary ...	10	1	—	—
1	Tuberculin Tested ...	1	—	—	—
4	Accredited ...	2	—	2	—
3	School Milks ...	2	1	—	—

The result of samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination show that of the 19 samples of Milk from Retailers, 17 or 89.4% were reported to be satisfactory.

MILK (Special Designations) ORDER 1936-1938

Number of Licences in operation during 1943 ... 10

Licences issued by W.R.C.C.—

Accredited Milk 8

Tuberculin Tested 1

Licences issued by the Council—

One Licence (Supplementary) to Retail Pasteurised Milk

FOOD AND DRUG ACTS, 1938

By arrangement with the West Riding County Council, 11 samples of Milk were submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year. It is gratifying to report that one sample only was reported upon adversely by the Analyst, the remaining 10 samples were reported satisfactory.

In addition the Officers of the West Riding County Council submitted 26 samples for analysis (one of which was reported to be adulterated), and 10 samples of other foodstuffs (one of which was reported to be unsatisfactory),

These figures of samples of Foodstuffs which have been taken during the year by the Inspectors are most encouraging and indicate the care and attention which is being given to the work in this area.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES

(*a*) Register of Ice Premises—
Three Premises are Registered for the Sale of Ice Cream.

(*b*) Register of Food (Preparation and Manufacture) Premises

Ten Premises are Registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Food Products

Thirteen are Registrated for the Preservation of Fish Cooking

These premises have been regularly inspected during the year, and apart from minor details, there has been no serious contravention of the Act during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

The number of Licenced Slaughterhouses in the District is 7

Slaughtering for this District is carried out at the Spenborough Abattoir under the control of the Ministry of Food.

CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOOD

The following items were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year—

Beans	11 lbs.
Evaporated Milk	14 ozs.
Peaches	2 lbs.
Pork Sausage Meat ...	2 lbs,
Chopped Ham	31 lbs.
Frozen Beef	162 lbs.
Frozen Mutton	38 lbs.
Salmon	3 lbs.
Luncheon Meat	7 lbs.
Pilchards	2 lbs.
Plums	1 lb.
Beef Loaf	1 lb.
Peas	2 lbs.
Pork	4 lbs.
Jam	8 lbs.
Crushed Malt	4 bag
Meat Roll	13 lbs.
Prem	2 tins

SCAVENGEING

The Staff engaged on this work consists of 2 Drivers, 7 Dustmen and 1 Tipman, under the supervision of the foreman. In addition one man is engaged on Salvage Work.

During the year a re-conditioned Morris Tipper was obtained for the use of this Department, particularly for use on Salvage work, and this together with the existing two Refuse Collecting Vehicles has given a good service, and has assisted in the maintaining of an efficient and regular collection of all refuse by the Department.

During the year the collection of refuse from dwelling-houses was carried out regularly every fortnight. Shop refuse was collected weekly. All pail closets were collected weekly, and privy middens emptied at least once every month.

Details of the work carried out by the Department during the year are set out below—

Waggon No.	Loads to Tip	Bins	Privies	Ashpits	Pail Closets	Trade Refuse
1	795	42609	1269	1148	1940	24
2	901	42593	1631	1013	130	63
TOTAL	1696	85202	2900	2161	2070	87

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping. Two tips were in use during the year. Messrs. T. Garforth kindly offered free facilities for tipping in the quarry at Taylor Hall Lane, up to the month of October, and since that time we have reverted back to the Council Tip at Stocks Bank Road.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

EXPENDITURE	£	s	d
Wages	2199	4	9
Oil	16	10	2
Repairs	116	6	8
Sundries	33	19	0
National Health Insurance ...	58	16	2
Petrol	216	17	8
Licenses	100	0	0
Insurances	12	19	2
Rates	9	17	0
TOTAL ...	£2764	10	7

INCOME	£	s	d	£	s	d
Sundry Rents ...	20	0	0			
Trade Refuse ...	37	12	4			
Sundry Charges ...	5	9	0			
Lorry	66	11	8			
TOTAL ...	129	13	0	129	13	0
NET COST ...				2634	17	7

SALVAGE 1944-1945

The results of the Salvage effort during the year are set out below. There has been a national decrease in the amount of materials salvaged during the past 12 months. Rubber, tins and metals have now little or no market value, and directions to salvage such materials were withdrawn by the Government, I feel however, that we have every reason to be satisfied with the results as shown, and I again express my appreciation for the assistance which has been given by many voluntary helpers.

Salvage Returns

1943—1944								1944—1945							
Tonnage				Income				Tonnage				Income			
T	C	Q		£	s	d		T	C	Q		£	s	d	
210	11	1	...	850	2	4		176	19	0	...	677	18	8	

INCOME FROM SALE OF SALVAGED MATERIAL

	T	C	Q	Lbs.	£	s	d
Paper ...	75	19	3	0	483	10	0
Rubber	1	5	3	0	3	4	4
Scrap Metal	5	19	0	0	17	5	9
Bottles & Jars	16	6	1	0	40	17	8
Rags ...		10	6	6	10	18	9
String ...		3	1	4		16	4
Bones ...		32	2	9	7	17	7
Other Metals		1	1	0		18	9
Kitchen Waste	74	19	3	0	112	9	6
	176	19	0	19	677	18	8